

that God has established and sanctified Marriage, for the welfare and happiness of mankind. Our Saviour has declared that a man shall forsake his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. By His apostles, He has instructed those who enter into this relation to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow; in honesty and industry to provide for each other, and for their household, in temporal things; to pray for and encourage each other in the things which pertain to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

Forasmuch as these two Persons have come hither to be made one in this holy estate, if there be any here present who knows any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined in Marriage, I require him now to make it known, or ever after to hold his peace.

THEN, SPEAKING UNTO THE PERSONS WHO ARE TO BE MARRIED, HE SHALL SAY,
I CHARGE you both, before the great God the Searcher of all hearts, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not lawfully be joined together in Marriage, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word allows, their union is not blessed by Him.

THEN, IF NO IMPEDIMENT APPEAR, THE MINISTER SHALL SAY,

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, whose Presence is the happiness of every condition, and whose favour sweetens every relation; We beseech Thee to be present and favourable unto these Thy servants, that they may be truly joined in the honourable estate of Marriage, in the covenant of their peace.